for formal matters, and that prosecution on the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

The Office requests cancellation of the non-elected claims and deletion of the non-elected subject matter from the remaining claims. With this Response and Amendment, the applicants cancel all non-elected claims, and delete the non-elected subject matter from Claims 1, 3, 5-13, 17-19, 23-25, 30-34, 39, 46, 53-72, 78, and 81-83. Claim 81 has been amended to remove its dependency on Claim 74. Claims 13 and 24 have been amended to correct typographical errors.

* * * * *

Accordingly, entry of the present amendment, reconsideration of all grounds of objection and rejection, withdrawal thereof, and passage of this application to issue are all hereby respectfully solicited.

It should be apparent that the undersigned attorney has made an earnest effort to place this application into condition for immediate allowance. If he can be of assistance to the Examiner in the elimination of any possibly-outstanding insignificant impediment to an immediate allowance, the Examiner is respectfully invited to call him at his below-listed number for such purpose.

Allowance is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

THE FIRM OF HUESCHEN AND SAGE

G PATRICK SAGE

Dated: June 2, 2004 Customer No.: 25,666 500 Columbia Plaza 350 East Michigan Ave. Kalamazoo, MI 49007-3856 (269) 382-0030

Enclosure: Listing of Claims; Postal Card Receipt

. . . .

THE COMMISSIONER IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO CHARGE ANY FURTHER OR ADDITIONAL FEES WHICH MAY BE REQUIRED (DUE TO OMISSION, DEFICIENCY, OR OTHERWISE), OR TO CREDIT ANY OVERPAYMENT, TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 08,3220.